



**Request for City Council Committee Action  
Health Department**

**Date:** April 4, 2013

**To:** REGULATORY, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**Subject:** 2013 MINNEAPOLIS GREEN BUSINESS AWARDS FOR POLLUTION  
REDUCTION FOR PERC-FREE DRY CLEANERS

**Recommendation:**

Presentation of the 2013 Minneapolis Green Business Awards for Pollution Reduction in recognition of Colonial Cleaners, Peter Pan Dry Cleaners, Hiawatha Cleaners & Launderers, Prestige Cleaning Center, Sew Biz Tailoring, Uptown Cleaners, White Way Cleaners, and Mulberry's Garment Care for their use of perchloroethylene (perc)-free dry cleaning processes.

**Previous Directives:** None

**Prepared or Submitted by:** Jennifer Lansing, Phone: x3023

**Approved by:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gretchen Musicant, Commissioner of Health

**Permanent Review Committee (PRC):** Approval \_\_\_\_ Not Applicable X  
**Policy Review Group (PRG)** Approval \_\_\_\_ Date of Approval \_\_\_\_ Not Applicable X

**Presenters in Committee:** Jennifer Lansing, Environmental Inspector  
Patrick Hanlon, Environment Services Supervisor

**Financial Impact (Check those that apply)**

X No financial impact (If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information).

**Community Impact (use any categories that apply)**

City Goals: ECO-FOCUSED Minneapolis is an internationally recognized leader for a healthy environment and sustainable future strategic directions

**Background/Supporting Information Attached**

Last year the city of Minneapolis launched the Green Business Matching Grant program with a matching grant of \$20,000 to Avestopolis Cleaners to remove the hazardous material perchloroethylene (perc) from its processes. The project was a success and, with their business investment of \$70,000 funded in-part through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Small Business Environmental Improvement Loan Program, Avestopolis Cleaners is now perc-free. Avestopolis Cleaners was awarded the 2012 Minneapolis Green Business Awards for Pollution Reduction for their environmental hazards reduction efforts.

The department would like to recognize other dry cleaner businesses that have already taken the proactive measure to establish perc-free facilities by presenting them with the 2013 Minneapolis Green Business awards for Pollution Reduction.

The city of Minneapolis is striving to be the first city to assist in the elimination of perc on a completely voluntary basis. Perc is the predominant chemical solvent used in dry cleaning and is a toxic chemical with both human health and environmental concerns. Because of these impacts, perc is more strictly regulated today than in the past. Many cleaners are investigating alternatives for use in their operations and are willing to put forth the investment to improve their business and the environment.

There are two matching grants of up to \$20,000 available in 2013 to help fund additional dry cleaners to move from use of perc to safer alternatives in their dry cleaning process. The Green Business Matching Grant program is an opportunity for the City to assist its business owners in this transition while working to improve the environmental health of Minneapolis.